



5th District 2012 Session Review



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As most of you know, I will not be seeking re-election to the 5th District House seat this year. After 12 years it's time to seek new opportunities and challenges. I offer my deepest thanks to you for having allowed me the privilege to serve you in Olympia and to try to make real differences that matter to real people. It's has been an extraordinary honor every day, but just like everything in life, there comes a time to reassess where you can make the greatest difference.

As you have also probably heard, I will be running for higher statewide office this fall because I feel that the challenges our state faces must be addressed sooner rather than later. I am serving out my full term and will be available to meet with you and assist you with legislative issues until the end of this year. Just because I won't be doing this job after 2012, doesn't mean my work for you this year ends.

One of the greatest assets in my time representing you over the years has been the significant number of people, of all political persuasions, that have engaged in active problem-solving and contributed time and brain power to wrestle with the issues that need to be fixed. You get involved and make a difference. You have been the leaders that set the example of meaningful participation in our self-governance much more than anything done on my part.

Thank you for your confidence when we agreed and your grace when we disagreed on a particular issue. We are living in difficult times and it's my hope that communicating honestly, fearlessly and respectfully has not gone out of style. Working together and beyond our differences, we can solve the challenges we face, indeed we must.

I hope this brief legislative review is informative. My legislative office information is included in this newsletter – please hold onto it so you can contact me if needed. My office can assist you with finding state services, working with state agencies to resolve issues and answering questions on legislation. I hope to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Rep. Glenn Anderson
5th Legislative District

Representative Glenn Anderson



The national budget, economy

On the national stage, we are in very deep financial trouble and it's getting worse. The national debt is now more than \$15 trillion. By October, we will have to raise our national debt ceiling again to avoid default and the risk of another credit rating downgrade. We are borrowing more than 40 cents of every dollar the federal government spends. That means we would have to eliminate the entire federal government (including defense) and still have to cut all social spending entitlements (Social Security, Medicare and veterans benefits) by an additional 20 percent just to get back to zero debt and begin investing in the future again.

It's estimated it will take more than 30 years to re-establish the fiscal stability of our government. Restructuring our national economy will be necessary to be more competitive in the global economy. Until we have a serious neighbor-to-neighbor discussion about the America we want to leave for future generations, ignoring the consequences of deficit spending will have harsh consequences and rob our children of their future.

It's the responsibility of our generation to fix this now! There is plenty of blame to go around and pointing out who is to blame is a waste of our time. The questions we must all answer are: What is it worth to us to truly fix it or is it just ok to ride the boat down? And, how can we be part of the solution?

Washington state budget, economy

The situation is not much different in Washington state. Over the last decade there has been no increase in the net number of private-sector jobs in our state, even with almost 900,000 new residents. Paychecks have shrunk and the cost-of-living has rapidly increased. Our state is getting poorer, faster.

All the while, state government has continued to increase spending and the rate of government expansion. In almost every category of state government spending (education, social programs, etc.), there has been no improvement in outcomes for the money spent.

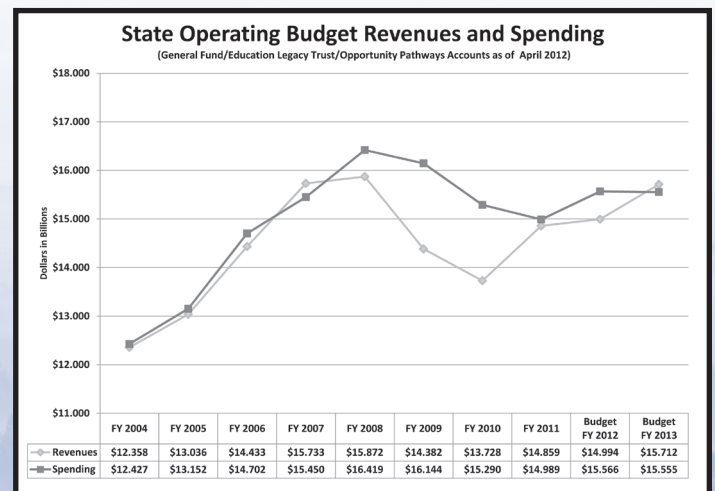
Final state budget, reforms



After six special sessions and two regular legislative sessions the past two years, I was glad to see common sense initiatives to move beyond the political denial that has led to our current fiscal crisis. Organized special interest groups sought assurances their "sacred cows" were not sacrificed. However, a genuine bipartisan coalition in the Senate, which consisted of three Democrats and every Re-

publican, forced compromises on a more balanced budget and much-needed pension and budgeting reforms.

The reality is no one party has every solution. We need to work together to better this state and that means finding agreement on very difficult issues. It is not a perfect budget by any means, but it actually addresses our fiscal reality and curbed special interest influence.



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Jobs and economy

Private-sector jobs pay for government programs, investments and employees. The fewer the number of family-wage jobs, the less money there is to invest in the future. It's that simple.

Our small-business owners need opportunities to hire and expand, not more regulatory paperwork and higher taxes. We also need more large businesses to locate and invest in our state to generate more paychecks. We don't need one Boeing, we need three. We don't need just one Microsoft, we need three or more if we are going to have a low tax burden that generates enough to invest in the quality of life that will build a future for our kids.

I have worked to open up a dialogue with the public and fellow legislators on how to revamp our state business taxes to ensure fairness and promote private-sector job growth. The only way we will turn our economy around is by getting people back to work. My hope is we continue talking about this issue – not adding more taxes, but reforming the business tax structure from punitive to competitive.

The solutions to a strong state economy are nonpartisan. We must find consensus on how we encourage private-sector, family-wage job growth.

Rep. Glenn Anderson discussing legislation with his fellow representative on the House floor.



Education: The paramount duty

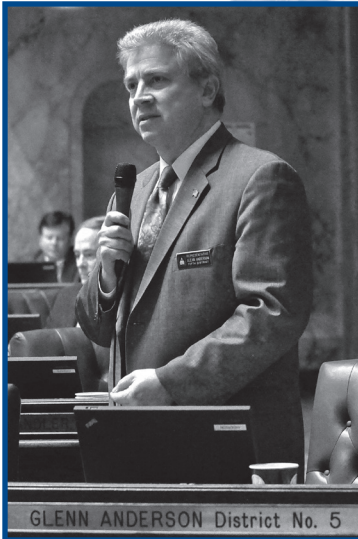
Throughout my service in the Legislature, I spent my time working to ensure we address shortcomings in our K-12 and higher education systems. A quality education and the opportunity to pursue an advanced education is the strongest investment the state can make in each citizen to enable them to pursue prosperity and keep our state economy healthy and strong. A good education is something nobody can ever take away and allows anybody to pull themselves up by the bootstraps, regardless of their background or economic hardships.

In 2006, I was appointed to the governor's Washington Learns Task Force after serving on many other education-related work groups. While encouraging many aspirational recommendations, the task force provided no means to implement them or any accountability in the system. Shortly thereafter, I led a bipartisan group of legislators to initiate a comprehensive rewrite of our state's public school laws. In 2009, House Bill 2261 was signed into law that accomplished many of those necessary reforms.

Separately, I introduced a Fund Education First initiative each year since 2006 that would mandate K-12 education be funded first in the state budget. No tricks or gimmicks – just do what our state constitution directs us to do.

This January, before the Legislature convened, the state Supreme Court in its *McCleary v. State of Washington* decision ruled House Bill 2261 was the correct path for our state and that funding education first was indeed the “paramount duty” of the Legislature. While it was personally gratifying to have the court validate these efforts, the Legislature must act accordingly. The state Supreme Court, in its decision, remained skeptical of the Legislature's willingness to act and explicitly retained jurisdiction over the case. I will continue following these efforts closely.

Representative Glenn Anderson



**Rep. Glenn Anderson
addresses fellow House
members as he debates on
the House floor.**

*"The test of a great people is if they can renew
themselves in the face of adversity." Unknown*

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2012
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REVIEW**

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